

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor in support of H.R. 4569, legislation to provide for the development of a national plan for the control and management of Sudden Oak Death.

Sudden Oak Death is a forest disease caused by the plant pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*. This pathogen has caused widespread dieback in California and across the nation of tanoak, several oak species (including coast live oak, California black oak, Shreve's oak, and canyon live oak) and a myriad of shrubs and nursery stock.

The disease has killed hundreds of thousands of trees in the coastal counties in northern California (two of which I represent) and southwestern Oregon. As a result of the dieback in California, USDA recently issued federal quarantine regulations on the movement of materials outside California. This action is in addition to the separate quarantines Canada and the States of California and Oregon imposed on themselves. Further, thirteen states have also implemented their own specific regulations against California nursery stock after the positive find in a southern California nursery. Millions of dollars of nursery stock have already been destroyed with little or no compensation for the growers.

Additionally, the alarming discovery that evidence of DNA has been found on California's coastal redwoods and Big Leaf Maples in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada raises our concerns to a much higher level. Should the Sudden Oak Death pathogen establish itself in the Sierra Nevada, California's commercial forest industry as well as prized recreation areas would be severely impacted. If this proves to be true, the economic and ecological costs to California would be incalculable.

If Sudden Oak Death is left unchecked, the landscape of California and the economic livelihoods of many will be forever changed. It's been almost ten years since the first detailed accounts of large numbers of tanoaks were observed dying in Marin and Santa Cruz Counties and already a difference in the landscape can be noted.

Mr. Speaker, depending on the plant species, *P. ramorum* infection may occur on the trunk, branches, and/or leaves. Infections on the woody portions of a tree are referred to as cankers. Cankers on the trunk of oak and tanoak trees are the most damaging, and often lead to death.

Additionally, diseased oak and tanoak trees are often attacked by other organisms once they are weakened by *P. ramorum*. It has also been found to infect the leaves and twigs of numerous other plants species. While many of these foliar hosts, such as California bay laurel and Rhododendron species, do not die from the disease, they do play a key role in the spread of *P. ramorum*, acting as breeding ground for inoculum, which may then be spread through wind-driven rain, water, plant material, or human activity.

Mr. Speaker, we currently know that the total number of APHIS-confirmed positive sites from the trace-forward, national, and other survey finds is 160 in 21 states and the number realistically is much higher considering the current scope of testing. This number ranges from single event sites to as many as 53 in my state of California.

The time to act is now and passage of H.R. 4569 is a great step forward. We must stop the further spread of Sudden Oak Death.

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4569.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL FOREST IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3514) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands and improvements associated with the National Forest System in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3514

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Pennsylvania National Forest Improvement Act of 2004".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Disposal of administrative sites, Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania.
- Sec. 3. Conveyance of Sheffield Ranger District Headquarters, Warren County, Pennsylvania.
- Sec. 4. Conveyance of Ridgeway Ranger District Headquarters, Elk County, Pennsylvania.
- Sec. 5. Conveyance of Marienville Ranger Residence, Forest County, Pennsylvania.
- Sec. 6. Disposition of funds.
- Sec. 7. Administration of land acquired by United States.
- Sec. 8. Relation to other conveyances authorities.

SEC. 2. DISPOSAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE SITES, ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST, PENNSYLVANIA.

(a) DISPOSAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Agriculture may convey, by sale or exchange, any and all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the following National Forest System lands and administrative sites in the Allegheny National Forest, in Pennsylvania:

(1) US Tract 121, Sheffield ranger residence, consisting of 0.41 acres, as depicted on the map titled "Allegheny Unit, Allen M. Gibson Tract 121, March 1942".

(2) US Tract 896, an undeveloped administrative site, consisting of 2.42 acres, as depicted on the map titled "Allegheny Unit, Howard L. Harp Tract 896, 1947".

(3) US Tract 1047 (formerly Tracts 551, 551a,b,c), original Marienville Ranger District Headquarters, consisting of 4.90 acres, as depicted on the map titled "Marienville Ranger Station Compound Tract 1047, August 1998".

(4) US Tract 844, Marienville ranger residence, as depicted on the map titled "Allegheny Unit, Peter B. DeSmet Tract 844, 1936", except that portion of the tract identified as Lot 2, on the Survey Plat prepared by D. M. Heller and dated December 12, 1999, which is subject to conveyance under section 5.

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS.—The maps referred to in subsection (a) are the primary descriptions of the lands to which the maps refer. In the event of a conflict between a map description and the metes and bounds description of the lands, the map shall be deemed to be the definitive description of the lands unless the map cannot be located. The maps shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service until the lands are disposed of pursuant to this section.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) AUTHORIZED CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for a conveyance of land under subsection (a), the recipient of the land, with the consent of the Secretary, may convey to the Secretary other land, existing improvements, or improvements constructed to the specifications of the Secretary.

(2) CASH EQUALIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept a cash equalization payment in excess of 25 percent of the value of any land and administrative site exchanged under subsection (a).

(d) APPLICABLE LAW.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, any conveyance of land under subsection (a) shall be subject to the laws and regulations applicable to the conveyance and acquisition of land for the National Forest System.

(e) SOLICITATION OF OFFERS.—

(1) CONVEYANCE PRIORITY.—In the selection of the recipient of land under this section, the Secretary may give a preference to public entities that agree to use the land for public purposes.

(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may solicit offers for the conveyance of land under this section on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe.

(3) REJECTION OF OFFERS.—The Secretary may reject any offer made under this section if the Secretary determines that the offer is not adequate or not in the public interest.

(f) REVOCATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on conveyance of land by the Secretary under this section, any public order withdrawing the land from any form of appropriation under the public land laws is revoked.

(g) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with any conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF SHEFFIELD RANGER DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, WARREN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture may convey to the Warren County Development Association of Warren County, Pennsylvania, all right, title, and interest of the United States in